

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 35-37 are pending in this application. Claim 2-34 have been previously canceled. Claims 1 and 36 have been amended herein.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1 and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,483,983 issued to Takahashi ("Takahashi"), in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,938,215 issued to Kobayashi ("Kobayashi"), and U.S. Pat. No. 5,544,354 issued to May ("May").

Claimed embodiments of the invention describe, in part, that a user-specified title is automatically played back if there is not any input from the user for a predetermined duration of time. The playback of the user-specified title is stopped once the end of the user-specified title playback is reached.

Features of the claimed embodiments of the invention provide a variety of benefits. For example, power consumption is reduced because the playback of the user-specified title is stopped after the user-specified title reaches its end, which avoids continuous and unnecessary playback. Another benefit of these features is enhanced usability. For example, because the decoder module does not play the next title automatically, and playback stops at the end of the title, the user is able to recognize which title is currently playing and which title has recently been played.

Applicants respectfully submit that May discloses a multimedia interface for accessing a database of information. (see May at Abstract). May further discloses that "after a specified period of time during which there is no viewer [or user] input" a timeout function is automatically invoked (i.e., a "screensaver" function). (see May at col. 15, lines 45-48). The timeout function "begin[s] to display a series of previews dependent on [a] currently focused cell...[and] [t]he previews continue as long as there is no viewer input." (see May at col. 15,

lines 51-54). Furthermore, "[w]hen a [series] of previews ends the focus then shifts to the next cell...[and] *[t]his process continues in an endless loop* within the displayed matrix until user input occurs." (see May at col. 15, lines 54-58; emphasis provided).

In contrast, claim 1 and similarly claim 36 recites that "the system control module is configured to control the decoder module to stop playback of the user-specified title and maintain the user-specified title after playing of the user-specified title ends." (emphasis provided). Applicants respectfully submit that May fails to teach or suggest these features. Instead, May discloses that previews are displayed in an "endless loop", whereas claim 1 recites that playback is stopped after "the user-specified title ends." Accordingly, playback in May continuously runs similar to a screensaver, while claim 1 stops displaying the user-specified title when it reaches its end (i.e., it is not displayed in an endless loop).

Additionally, applicants submit that Takahashi and Kobayashi also fail to disclose any of the limitations discussed above. Since May, Takahashi and Kobayashi all fail to disclose the cited elements, the combination of May, Takahashi and Kobayashi as a whole also fails to make obvious the claims. Accordingly, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 36 are patentable over May, Takahashi and Kobayashi. Furthermore, because claims 35 and 37 depend from independent claims 1 and 36, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 35 and 37 are also patentable over May, Takahashi and Kobayashi for at least the same reasons. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 35-37 be withdrawn.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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